

ON SOME AFRICAN SPHINGIDAE.

By DR. KARL JORDAN.

(With five text-figures.)

Litosphingia gen. nov.

♂. Generibus *Hoplistopus* et *Praedora* dictis similis, sed tibia antica duabus spinis lateralibus armata et intermedia haud spinosa distinguenda.

Tongue well developed; genal process large; pilifer with bristles only. Antenna not distinctly club-shaped, cilia as in *Hoplistopus*. Palpus just visible from above, joint between segments I and II slightly open. Head with a feeble median crest. Foretibia with two spines, both lateral; foretarsal segment I one-third shorter than foretibia, likewise with two lateral spines, the first submedian, the second apical, segments II to V together very little longer than tibia. Midtibia without spines, without comb. Hindtibial apical inner spur about one-third the length of the first hindtarsal segment. Pulvillus present; paronychium with one lobe each side. Spines on abdominal tergites very weak.

Genitalia: Tenth tergite compressed, its apex widened, rounded in dorsal view, convex above and concave beneath. Tenth sternite much shorter than tergite, pointed. Clasper without friction-scales, short. Penis-sheath with a peculiar rim around apex.

Neuration: Lower cell-angle of forewing obtuse; SC^2 and R^1 of hindwing on a very short stalk, cross-vein D^2 incurved, nearly double as long as D^3 .

♀ and early stages not known.

One species.

1. *Litosphingia corticea* spec. nov.

♂. Grisea; abdomine linea mediana dorsali continua nigra bene expressa notato. Ala antica elongata angulo postico valde obtuso subrotundato, grisea nigro suffusa, basi macula longitudinali diffusa mediana griseo-alba, venis plus minusve nigris in area submarginali grisco-albo striatis, fascia sat lata nigra e duabus maculis inter apicem et venam R^1 sitis composita in discum continuata, ubi reducta diffusa inconspicua. Ala postica grisea nigro-venata. Cilia nigroguttata.

Al. ant. long. 24 mm., lat. 8.5 mm.

Hab. Umvuma, S. Rhodesia, 18.i. 1918 (A. A. Carnegie); one ♂ in Rhodesia Museum.

Head, pronotum, and the middle of the meso-metanota suffused with black, the patagia whitish grey; black median line of abdomen continuous, almost one millimetre broad anteriorly, narrowing backwards; no lateral spots.

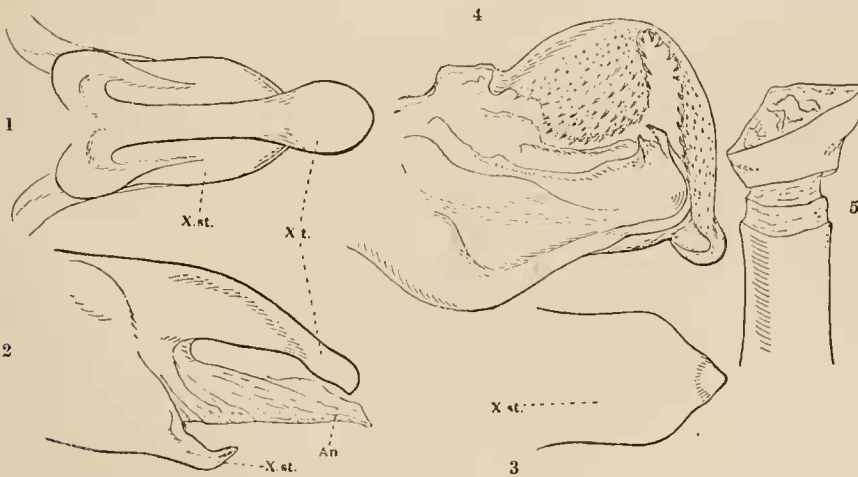
Hind angle of forewing much more rounded than in the species of *Praedora* and *Hoplistopus*, but less so than in *Ellenbeckia*. The pale upper scales on both wings bidentate, the long ones of upper side narrowing apically, many truncate,

the large underscales tridentate, but the middle tooth often missing; few underscales in cell of forewing beneath.

Grey, suffused with black. Forewing: a whitish grey streak from base to M^2 below cell, posteriorly bordered by a black line which is slightly longer, a median line in cell and the veins black, on disc between R^3 and M^2 two black streaks; from apex to R^1 two black spots sharply defined costally, more diffuse distally, forming a short oblique band which is continued by a faint diffuse cloud, between R^1 and R^2 a blackish line from near cell to near fringe, in sub-marginal area the veins each with a more or less distinct whitish-grey dash; fringe with blackish dots at ends of veins. Hindwing almost uniformly blackish grey, the veins black, thin, abdominal area paler.

Underside without markings excepting the fringe-spots, which are more clearly defined than above.

Genitalia (text-figs. 1-5): Tenth tergite (x.t.) entire, the apical process



in dorsal aspect spoon-shaped, being proximally compressed and apically rounded-dilated; in a lateral view the process is highest in its proximal half, the apical half being depressed and gently curved downwards; underside of apical dilatation concave. Tenth sternite (x.st.), in a ventral view, with the sides parallel to about two-thirds, apical third narrowing to a point, the apex being curved upwards. Clasper (text-fig. 4) irregular in shape, dorsal margin convex, apex produced as a lobe, below which the margin is incurved; outer surface divided by a longitudinal groove; dorsal margin armed with numerous small teeth directed proximad. No friction-scales. On the inner side the dorsal margin proximally dilated into a large lobe, bent down and covering part of the cavity of the clasper; this lobe dentate. Harpe divided by a deep longitudinal groove into a broad convex ventral ridge and a thin sharp dorsal one, each ending distally with a recurved conical tooth, the two teeth lying one behind the other, the distal one, which belongs to the ventral ridge, being the longer of the two; from the wide proximal portion of the harpe an intermediate, shortened ridge extends into the groove of the harpe; above the harpe and partly covered by the dorsal marginal lobe a small double ridge. Penis-sheath (text-fig. 5)

terminating with a collar of which the proximal edge is detached from the sheath, the distal edge forming a triangle of which the ventral corner projects most; this collar in a lateral view somewhat resembles the flat-crowned three-cornered hat of our forefathers.

2. *Xenosphingia jansei* Jord. (1920).

Described from a single ♂ on p. 169 of the present volume. Mr. A. T. Janse has now kindly sent us, for the Tring Museum, a ♀ of this interesting species. This sex differs from the ♂ especially in the palpus, of which the third segment is long and rod-like as in ♂, but porrect and not eurved sideways. The pectination of the antenna is not quite so long as in ♂. The neuration differs in SC² of forewing being nearer to apex of cell than to SC¹, and in D² of hindwing* being but slightly longer than D¹.

The ♀ was obtained by Mr. Janse at Sawmills, South Rhodesia, in January 1920.

3. *Temnora cinereofusca* Strand (1912).

In *Nov. Zool.* xxiii. p. 118, No. 6 (1916) we said that we regarded *cinereofusca* as synonymous with *T. reutlinger*. I have lately seen in the Berlin Museum a specimen of true *cinereofusca*. The species is not *T. reutlinger*, but comes close to *T. subapicalis* R. & J. (1905), from which it differs in the more greyish coloration.

4. *Nephele rosae illustris* subspee. nov.

Nephele rosae, R. & J., *Revis. Sphing.*, p. 563, no. 486 (1903) (pt. ; Nguelo). ♀. Fascia alba alarum antearum lata a costa usque ad marginem posticum.

Hab. Inyamadzi, Portug. East Africa, 2,000 ft., 28.v.1916 (Swinerton), 1 ♀ in coll. Janse, type; Nguelo, German East Africa, 1 ♀, and Pemba Island (E. Morland), 1 ♀, in the Tring Museum.

On an average larger than the West African subspecies. The white band of the forewing broader, of almost even width from costa to hindmargin; the pale line placed outside this band more or less scaled white towards costa.

Our two specimens are rather poor, while the one in coll. Janse is very fine, having been bred from the chrysalis.

In the West African race, *N. r. rosae*, the white band of the forewing varies very much in width, being sometimes almost a mere line, sometimes posteriorly several millimetres wide, but is always narrower towards the costal margin than at the hindmargin. The stigma of the forewing is usually present in *N. r. rosae*; in the above three specimens of *N. r. illustris* it is absent.

* In the description of *Xenosphingia* read D² instead of D¹.